## **REMARKS**

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 15, 2004.

Claims 1, 7, 12 and 14 are amended, claims 4 and 17 are canceled and, as a result, claims 1-3, and 5-16 are now pending in this application. As Claims 1 and 7 have been amended for allowance per the Examiner's suggestion, the amendments to previously withdrawn Claims 12 and 14 are presumed to have now prepared Claims 12 and 14 for allowance. Further, as Claim 1 is generic to Claims 12 and 14, they are now in similar allowable condition.

## Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and a 1449 Form with the application on February 25, 2004. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the consideration of the references cited therewith, however, Applicant notes that two of the references were not initialed as considered by the Examiner. Applicant includes herewith a copy of pages 4 and 7 of the 1449 Form submitted with the IDS filed on February 25, 2004, and respectfully requests that the Examiner initial the two unconsidered references (U.S. 5,972,804 and U.S. 6,518,198), and that an initialed copy of these two pages from the 1449 Form be returned to Applicants' Representatives to indicate that the cited references have been considered by the Examiner.

# §102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zhao (U.S. 6,211,561). Applicant traverses. Claim 1 is rewritten to include the subject matter of Claim 4, which was indicated as allowable. Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable therewith. Claim 7 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 4. Claims 9-11 depend from Claim 7 and are believed allowable therewith.

#### §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhao (U.S. 6,211,561) in view of Jin et al. (U.S. 6,059,553). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhao (U.S. 6,211,561) in view of Nag (U.S. 6,214,719). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhao (U.S. 6,211,561) in view of

Bedner et al. (U.S. 6,194,233). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhao (U.S. 6,211,561). Applicant submits that these dependent claims are allowable with their parent claims

## Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of Claim 4 was rewritten into independent Claim 1. Claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Claims 2-3 and 5-6, depending from Claim 1, are also believed allowable.

### Withdrawn Claims

Claims 12-16 stand withdrawn. Claim 1 is generic to independent Claims 12 and 14. Moreover, Claims 12 and 14 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of Claims 12-16.

Title: MULTILEVEL COPPER INTERCONNECTS WITH LOW-K DIELECTRICS AND AIR GAPS

#### Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 349-9587 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

KIE Y. AHN ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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